

Even without this impressive accomplishment, Gail Devers would be a modern day hero. She won 10 area track titles in various events for Sweetwater High while setting seven section records and winning three State titles. She was so widely known in San Diego's South Bay that Sweetwater High named its stadium after her.

Her high school yearbook inscription read, "follow your dreams wherever they may lead." Little did she know that those dreams might never have been fulfilled on the track. In 1988, she developed Graves' disease and could not run for almost 2 years. She suffered through radiation therapy to counter the disease, which nearly forced the amputation of her feet in 1991. Only a year later, she won the first of her two 100 meter gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics.

Despite consecutive disappointing finishes in the 100 meter hurdles, including a fall over the final hurdle to surrender the lead at the Barcelona Olympics, Gail Devers has been a model champion with her bright smile and uplifting demeanor.

Gail led the San Diego County contingent of athletes at the Atlanta games—a contingent that numbers 98 strong. Many of these athletes, and others from across the Nation and around the world, trained prior to the games at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista in my district.

The San Diego community deserves to be proud of its athletes and its support of the American Olympic effort through the Olympic Training Center. We are especially proud of Gail Devers, who has overcome life-threatening adversity to become an heroic Olympic champion.

#### THE CRY FOR CHANGE AND REFORM HAS NOT GONE UNHEARD IN THE 104TH CONGRESS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, the American people delivered to this Congress a message of frustration and hope that a new legislature with fresh faces and a fresh commitment to honor the voice of the people that would radically alter the political landscape.

Their cry for change and reform did not go unheard.

In this Congress, we have changed the way Washington works and given the power back from where it came—the people in the States and cities and towns with real problems and real answers.

In this Congress, we passed real welfare reform, giving hope and opportunity to those who were trapped in a system that robs people of their dreams and dignity.

In this Congress, we forced this very body to live under the same laws and rules as those who elected us. We are

no longer accountable to ourselves, but to the American people.

There is still a long road ahead of us to accomplish everything that the American people set before us. But we will remain faithful to their message and continue in the right direction.

#### DEMOCRATS DECLARE VICTORY FOR GETTING MINIMUM WAGE BILL TO FLOOR OF HOUSE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats can declare victory again today, once the minimum wage bill is brought up on the House floor, but I just wanted to point out two things: First, to remind my colleagues that the Republicans fought against this minimum wage bill tooth and nail over the last 2 years; and, second, to point out that this affects real people.

Too many times on the other side of the aisle, particularly last Monday when the House Republican leader, the gentleman from Texas, DICK ARMEY, once again blasted the minimum wage and said that it was not important to real people, it was somehow an inside-the-beltway issue. Well, that is simply not true.

There are probably about 10 million Americans that are affected by a minimum wage increase, and they are people that have to go out every day and work to bring home the bread, to raise families, to pay for their mortgages, to pay for heat, to pay for their rent, whatever it happens to be. By delaying this minimum wage increase over 18 months, the Republican leadership has made it very difficult for those real people.

I am pleased today that it is finally being brought up. It is a victory not only for the Democrats but it is a victory for the real people in this country who only earn a minimum wage.

#### A THREEFER

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I guess if the gentleman from New Jersey thinks that we delayed it for 18 months, he obviously agrees the Democrats delayed it for 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, we did a threefer this week. A threefer. First of all, we passed welfare reform that fundamentally changes the welfare system, and it ways no more something for nothing. We are not going to condemn people to a cycle of dependency. We will not rip off their dignity and their self-worth. Great bill.

Second, health care reform says that health insurance can be kept when individuals leave or change their jobs. It provides for long-term care insurance deductions, fights fraud and abuse, al-

lows self-employed health care deductions, and it establishes for the first time the one thing that is going to put consumers, patients, back in the driver's seat and take the power away from bureaucracies and insurance companies: medical savings accounts. We passed that.

Today we are going to pass another bill that will make our airports safer, that will crack down on terrorism and that is going to make this country a safer place to live.

A threefer for this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

#### NIKE: RICH BOSSES, SWEAT SHOP SLAVES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Olympics is great for fans, athletes, and sponsors. Especially sponsors. Take Nike. Please, someone take Nike.

Nike pays Indonesian and Vietnamese workers an average of 15 cents an hour. They then sell those shoes for \$140 a pair. And then, if Members think that is highway robbery, their chief executive officer, Phillip Knight, made \$6.5 million in 1995.

I say a Nike ad should read, "Rich Bosses, Sweat Shop Slaves." And if we want to talk about sneakers, Nike is not joking.

Mr. Speaker, I say it is time for the American consumers to tell Nike to take a hikey and buy some American shoes before, so help me God, we are all working in some sweat shop.

With that, I yield back all the sweat and pain.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the gentleman is aware that Reebok has ceased buying soccer balls from anybody that hires children.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, last I heard, Reebok was not an American operation either.

#### REPUBLICAN CONGRESS KEEPS COMMITMENTS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, in November 1994 the American people sent a very clear message and Republicans were elected to restore the bonds of trust between the American people and their Government.

We have cut spending and are continuing on the path to a balanced budget. We are returning power and decisionmaking ability to States and local governments. We are eliminating the failed welfare state that has entrapped fellow Americans in poverty and despair. We passed health care reform